

Claim Amendments:

1. (currently amended) A delayed cross-linked fracturing fluid for application in formations having a temperature greater than 200°F comprising:

a gelling agent;

seawater, present in an amount sufficient to hydrate said gelling agent, thereby forming a gelled aqueous fluid; and

a cross-linking agent; selected from the group consisting of ammonium titanyl citrate, ammonium titanyl tartarate, ammonium titanyl gluconate, and mixtures thereof, said cross-linking agent being capable of causing delayed cross-linking of said gelling agent at a pH of about 9.5 or less, whereby said delay is about 5 minutes or more.

2. (original) The fracturing fluid of claim 1 wherein said gelling agent is selected from the group consisting of guar, hydroxypropyl guar, carboxymethylhydroxypropylguar, carboxymethylguar, carboxymethylcellulose, carboxymethylhydroxyethylcellulose, and mixtures thereof.

3. (original) The fracturing fluid of claim 1 wherein said gelling agent is hydroxypropyl guar.

4. (original) The fracturing fluid of claim 1 wherein said gelling agent is present in an amount in the range of from about 15 to about 60 pounds per 1000 gallons of said seawater.

5. (canceled)

6. (original) The fracturing fluid of claim 1 wherein said cross-linking agent is ammonium titanyl citrate.

7. (original) The fracturing fluid of claim 1 wherein said cross-linking agent is present in an amount sufficient to provide a titanium concentration in the range of from about 0.45 to about 1.8 percent by weight of said gelling agent.

8. (original) The fracturing fluid of claim 1 further comprising a proppant.

9. (original) The fracturing fluid of claim 1 further comprising a gel breaker selected from the group consisting of oxidizing agents, enzymes, and acids.

10. (original) A delayed cross-linked fracturing fluid comprising:  
a gelling agent;  
seawater, present in an amount sufficient to hydrate said gelling agent, thereby forming a gelled aqueous fluid; and  
a cross-linking agent capable of causing delayed cross-linking of said gelling agent at a pH of about 9.5 or less, said cross-linking agent being selected from the group consisting of ammonium titanyl citrate, ammonium titanyl tartarate, ammonium titanyl gluconate, and mixtures thereof.

11. (original) The fracturing fluid of claim 10 wherein said gelling agent is selected from the group consisting of guar, hydroxypropyl guar, carboxymethylhydroxypropylguar, carboxymethylguar, carboxymethylcellulose, carboxymethylhydroxyethylcellulose, and mixtures thereof.

12. (original) The fracturing fluid of claim 10 wherein said gelling agent is hydroxypropyl guar.

13. (original) The fracturing fluid of claim 10 wherein said gelling agent is present in an amount in the range of from about 15 to about 60 pounds per 1000 gallons of the seawater.

14. (original) The fracturing fluid of claim 10 wherein said cross-linking agent is ammonium titanyl citrate.

15. (original) The fracturing fluid of claim 10 wherein said cross-linking agent is present in an amount sufficient to provide a titanium concentration in the range of from about 0.45 to about 1.8 percent by weight of said gelling agent.

16. (original) The fracturing fluid of claim 10 further comprising a gel breaker selected from the group consisting of oxidizing agents, enzymes, and acids.

17. (original) A delayed cross-linked fracturing fluid comprising:  
a gelling agent;  
seawater, present in an amount sufficient to hydrate said gelling agent, thereby forming a gelled aqueous fluid; and  
a cross-linking agent capable of cross-linking said gelling agent at a pH of about 9.5 or less, said cross-linking agent being ammonium titanyl citrate.

18. (original) The fracturing fluid of claim 17 wherein said gelling agent is selected from the group consisting of guar, hydroxypropyl guar, carboxymethylhydroxypropylguar, carboxymethylguar, carboxymethylcellulose, carboxymethylhydroxyethylcellulose, and mixtures thereof.

19. (original) The fracturing fluid of claim 17 wherein said gelling agent is hydroxypropyl guar.

20. (original) The fracturing fluid of claim 17 wherein said gelling agent is present in an amount in the range of from about 15 to about 60 pounds per 1000 gallons of said seawater.

21. (original) The fracturing fluid of claim 17 wherein said cross-linking agent is present in an amount sufficient to provide a titanium concentration in the range of from about 0.45 to about 1.8 percent by weight of said gelling agent.

22. (original) The fracturing fluid of claim 17 further comprising a gel breaker selected from the group consisting of oxidizing agents, enzymes, and acids.